

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJECT: METROPOLITAN SHOW IN MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW USINFO OF AUGUST 29, 1975

1. METROPOLITAN EXHIBIT AT MOSCOW'S PUSHKIN MUSEUM HAS RECEIVED GLOWING REVIEWS IN SOV PRESS. PRE-OPENING ARTICLE AUGUST TWENTY-SIX IN SOVIETSKAYA KULTURA BY DIRECTOR OF THE HERMITAGE PIOTROVSKY INTRODUCED EXHIBIT BY DESCRIBING ITS SUCCESS IN LENINGRAD (270,000 PEOPLE SAW IT) AND POINTING OUT THAT EXHIBIT INCLUDED WESTERN EUROPEAN MASTERS WHOSE WORK HAD NEVER BEEN SEEN IN USSR. ARTICLE CITED INCLUSION OF MORE THAN TWENTY WORKS BY AMERICANS AS PLAYING "NO SMALL PART IN THE SUCCESS OF THE EXHIBIT" AND ALSO MENTIONS SUCCESS OF SCYTHIAN GOLD EXHIBIT IN STATES. ARTICLE CONCLUDES, "EXCHANGE OF ARTISTIC AND OTHER EXHIBITS, WHICH WE CARRY OUT WITH THE U.S. ARE IN HIGH MEASURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CSCE SIGNED NOT LONG AGO IN HELSINKI. THE EXHIBIT FROM THE METROPOLITAN WHICH AFTER LENINGRAD WILL OPEN IN MOSCOW WILL ASSIST THE FURTHER GROWTH IN FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL INTEREST IN MUTUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN PEOPLE."

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2. THE OPENING WAS COVERED ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH IN SOVIETSKAYA

KUL'TURA, IZVESTIA AND VECHERNAYA MOSKVA. IZVESTIA ARTICLE WAS LONGEST OF THREE (15 COLUMN INCHES) FOCUSED ON HOVING'S REMARKS BUT DID MENTION, AS DID OTHER TWO, THAT AMBASSADOR STOESEL DELIVERED REMARKS BY PRESIDENT FORD.

3. CROWDS QUEING UP TO BUY TICKETS IN FRONT OF THE PUSHKIN ARE LARGEST IN MEMORY AND WE HAVE HAD AT LEAST ONE RELIABLE REPORT THAT THE BLACK-MARKET PRICE FOR THE BEAUTIFULLY PRINTED CATALOG IS ONE HUNDRED RUBLES. ORIGINAL AURORA PRESS TIRAGE WAS 5,000 COPIES BUT EVEN ON OPENING DAY MUSEUM WAS SELLING IT ONLY TO SPECIALISTS.

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